



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations

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## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. NEVILLE GERTZE**

**AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**74<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**AGENDA ITEM 39:**

**“THE NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC,  
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO  
IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AGAINST CUBA”**

**NEW YORK  
7 NOVEMBER 2019**

**Mr. President,**

1. More than 70 years ago from the ashes of World War 2, and having seen the devastation and misery caused by cruel pursuit of power and domination, world leaders came together to found this International Community of Nations. They committed themselves to do everything in their power to do good for humanity. They had a shared objective to establish a forum or body that would be at the forefront of efforts to achieve peace and security in the world. It was US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who, I would like to believe, might have drawn inspiration from the age-old wisdom that in “unity lies strength” when he coined the name for this organization to be known as “The United Nations”. We should never lose sight of the fact that this body was never envisaged to cause harm to the citizens of the world. It was established to seek peaceful resolution to conflicts. Thus, as we come together yet again to join our voices on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, let us send a strong and unequivocal message to the people of the Republic of Cuba that the United Nations remain steadfast in its resolve to do good for humanity and bring peaceful resolution to conflicts.

**Mr. President,**

2. As my delegation has done for decades, Namibia stands by, and reiterates our firm and unwavering support for the people and Government of Cuba. My delegation joins the many speakers before me in reminding us all that this blockade is contrary to international law and the Charter of the United Nations. And it represents an impediment to the implementation of the Cuban National Economic and Social Development Plan, in place to accelerate their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Mr. President,**

3. In 2016, we sat in this Hall welcoming the changing policy of the United States towards Cuba. We expressed hope that this blockade would finally come to an end. Three years later, we sit here today, frustrated by US actions which have only become more aggressive and are imposed on a larger scale. Sadly, rather than moving forward to bringing an end to the suffering and exclusion of the Cuban people, we have seen many steps taken backwards in 2019.



4. We take note with great concern the new measures announced in April against Cuban enterprises or companies or against Cuban individuals or third countries that do business with properties in Cuba. No citizen or sector of the economy has escaped the negative effects of this unilateral policy which hinders the development of Cuba.
5. We express our disappointment at these new and tightened measures taken and we urge the United States to reconsider these new measures.
6. We remain hopeful that the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba will be fully lifted, that relations will improve; and that the two countries will restore full economic activities to their mutual benefit.
7. As we work to consolidate multilateralism, I wish to remind us all of the call by our President of the General Assembly during the 74<sup>th</sup> Session that we should galvanize our efforts for inclusion of all.
8. Therefore, rather than isolation, let us stand together to promote a stronger culture of cooperation for the advancement of the wellbeing of all citizens of the world, and bring an end to the suffering of the Cuban people.

**Mr. President,**

9. To Namibia, the Cuban people are family. Notwithstanding all the challenges the Cuban people had to face and endure over all these years, they are a resilient people, and like many of the nations in this hall, Cuba had been at the forefront of contributing to the freedom and independence of my country. More importantly, Cuba, again like many of the Member States in this hall, spare no effort to contribute to the welfare of millions of people around the world through their selfless contributions in so many cases where natural disasters or adversity have struck or through science and technological advancements, training and capacity building support to the international community and medical professionals in many of the developing countries. Imagine how much more the peoples of the United States and Cuba and indeed the rest of the world could benefit when we concentrate our energies on constructive engagement and interaction. This can only truly happen when this unjust blockade is lifted.

10. It is against this background and in standing up in defense of international law and UN Resolutions that my delegation will vote in favor of this Resolution and we urge all Member states to stand by the Cuban People.

**I thank you.**